



**American  
Red Cross**

## **The Red Cross Response to Tornadoes in Alabama**



Most of the homes in the town of Geiger, Alabama were destroyed.  
-Red Cross

With winds up to 80 miles per hour, the recent band of tornadoes on Friday, April 15 left a trail of destruction across the state of Alabama, after it pummeled Oklahoma, Arkansas and Mississippi. After tornadoes touched down in at least 6 different counties and damage reported in 28 counties, Alabama Governor Robert Bentley declared a state of emergency. At least 7 people in Alabama have died. As local community continues to assess damage and start down the path of

recovery, the Red Cross is there providing a hot meal and a shoulder to lean on.

Damage assessments indicate that in Alabama more than 90 homes have been destroyed, nearly 100 homes have sustained major damage and nearly 175 homes have minor damage. No town has been hit harder than Geiger, Alabama about an hour south of Tuscaloosa. The entire town population has been affected with 70 homes sustaining damage and nearly 30 of those homes completely destroyed.

Tornadoes come and go with little warning and a family can lose their home in an instant. As the community bands together to rebuild and return to normalcy, individuals and families are turning to the American Red Cross for the shelter, food, emotional support, and emergency assistance. **Please help us continue to deliver these critical services, and to be ready for the next tornado.**

As hundreds of homes are damaged or destroyed, the Red Cross is providing shelter as residents rebuild their homes, none of which could be possible without the support of individuals, community organizations, corporations and foundations. Our disaster relief programs ensures that lifesaving services are available immediately to all people affected by disaster, as well as to prepare communities for disasters before they strike.

To date, the Red Cross has opened 2 shelters in the affected areas; served nearly 7,000 meals and snacks, and distributed more than 120 comfort kits. To support people after the tornado, the Red Cross has distributed nearly 200 cleanup kits containing gloves, a mop, bleach and a dust mask. Disaster workers in emergency response vehicles are circulating throughout the region, delivering hot meals and cleanup kits as people begin to recover from the disaster.

Over the past 2 weeks, in response to tornadoes throughout the south in OK, TX, MS, NC and wildfires in TX and OK, the Red Cross has:

- Opened more than 35 shelters
- Provided more than 1,400 overnight shelter stays
- Distributed more than 3,700 Bulk items (clean-up and comfort kits, tarps, trash bags)
- Served more than 63,000 meals and snacks
- Deployed more than 1,000 Red Cross workers
- More than 50 ERVs are providing mobile feeding and distributing bulk items.

As of 4/21/11

Our current best estimate for these recent disasters is between \$216,000 and \$385,000. However, because these events are still evolving and our relief operations are ongoing, these cost estimates may change. Every year the Red Cross spends an average of \$450 million on our Disaster Services program. Not only does it cover our direct services to our clients, but it also includes costs to maintain those things that help us provide assistance to people in need.

The Red Cross is doing everything we can to ensure that when families and individuals are affected by disaster, we are there. We cannot do it alone. **Help us continue this life saving work today and make a donation today to American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your donation is critical to providing a safe, warm and dry place to stay, food, emotional support and many other kinds of assistance- whenever and wherever disaster strikes.**

### How You Can Help

You can help people affected by disasters like the Alabama tornadoes, as well as countless crises at home and around the world, by making a donation to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance in response to disasters. Visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Contributions may also be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.



Alabama Governor Robert Bentley greets American Red Cross workers.  
-Red Cross